

**NORTHERN GREAT
LAKES SYNOD**
**Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America**
Marquette, Michigan

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E-Notes for September 16, 2014

PENTECOST SEASON

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Whoever is full of his own truth and wisdom is not capable of the truth and wisdom of God, which cannot be received save by those who are empty and destitute.”

–Martin Luther

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E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter
from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FROM THE BISHOP---ON STEWARDSHIP 2014-2015

“When I was a young pastor I was telling a wise old aunt of mine about a funeral I had done for a faithful man in my parish. After a minute or so she said this. “Just remember Tom, you cannot carry any one on your shoulders into heaven.” I have preached at hundred fifty funerals in my ministry and have often thought of what Aunt Esther told me. She understood the disciples question, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Who is responsible for your stewardship **work** in the congregation? That answer is clear—we all are. A special responsibility falls upon the leaders of the Congregation Council, the Stewardship Committee, and the pastor. But who is really

responsibility for the **success** of our stewardship work. You, my friend, are not! It is on God's shoulders!

Many years ago a neighboring pastor reminded me that in the work of God's Church we can only "guarantee our commitment and our work. We can never guarantee the outcome. That is God the Holy Spirit's job. To think we can always demand successful results of our work is sinful."

I have long said that we in the congregations should think about Stewardship Ministry in the same way we think of Christian Education. It is necessary and important and must be done every year. For us the only question we ever have about Christian Education is "how" we will do it this year—not "if" we will have it this year. The same with stewardship work—not "if" but "how." And like Sunday School, some years our Stewardship Ministry accomplishes more than others.

So keep at it, but remember that you cannot save yourself and you are not responsible for the success of the efforts of time, talent and treasure in the congregation. Work hard but the results are up to God. Put the results on God's shoulders."

GOALS OF OUR SYNOD STEWARDSHIP WORK—OUR PARTNERSHIP

Our synod goal is to encourage growth in unrestricted mission support from the congregations to the synod and Churchwide ELCA.

- a. Every congregation encouraged to grow to and exceed 15% of income to synod and Churchwide ELCA mission support.**
- b. Develop Planned Giving and grow the Synod Endowment Fund**
- c. Encourage giving to the ELCA Hunger Fund**

Global Ministries

Take a virtual journey to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania this fall!

Come along with six ELCA travelers Sept. 25-Oct. 10 to learn about exciting new Global Ministries that are priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Sign up to receive blog stories and photos through “Stories of the Global Church” at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/handInHand/>.

BOUNDARIES WORKSHOP FOR ROSTERED LEADERS

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. local time

Call the Synod Office to register today
for one of two events:

Monday October 27 at Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp

Wednesday October 29 at Our
Redeemer, Newberry

FORTUNE LAKE NEWS

FALL FEST: Saturday, October

4th. Viewing begins at 9:30am CT.

Quilt Auction at 11:00am. Buffet Brunch 9:30

- 11:00am. Craft & Bakery Sale. Kid's

Activities.

*All Northern Great Lakes
Synod Women are invited to
attend the Gathering in their
Conference!*

In case you didn't know, every church is in a conference, and every conference is encouraged by the Synod Women's Organization to sponsor a "Cluster Meeting", either once or twice a year. These Cluster Meetings or Gatherings are for church women, the young and young at heart, to gather in fellowship with each other. The sponsoring congregation plans the program and hosts a light luncheon. A brief worship or Bible Study and an offering are also usually a part of the afternoon. Come and partner in ministry with your sisters in Christ, not only in your own congregation, but with your neighboring churches.

We can do so much more together than we can on our own...and it's just more fun!

Conference 1: at All Saints Lutheran, Wakefield on Sunday, October 12.

Registration at 1:30pm CT.

Afternoon includes program and light supper.

Call Virginia Hezcko for more info at 906-932-1959.

Conference 8: at Trinity Lutheran, Ishpeming on Sunday, September 28.

Registration at 2:30pm ET.

Program with light lunch. Call Trinity Lutheran for more info at 906-486-6791

Other conferences are still in the planning stages. More info coming soon. Please let the Synod Office know when your Cluster Meeting is.

Conference Meetings

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is divided into 8 Conferences. Every autumn, pastors and congregational representatives meet to have necessary elections, discuss joint ministry efforts, and address concerns unique to their geographic area.

A representative from the Synod also attends to keep each conference aware of Synod concerns, updates, and Synod-wide ministry efforts. Each congregation makes arrangements to send their pastor and at least two congregation members. Please review the following Conference Meetings. If you are interested in attending, let your pastor know.

Conference 1 – IGO
CT at St. Paul, Ironwood

October 19 3:00pm

Conference 2 – Copper Country ET at Finlandia Chapel, Hancock	October 5	2:30pm
Conference 3 – Headwaters CT at Pioneer Lake, Conover	October 26	2:00pm
Conference 4 – Four Rivers CT at First, Iron River	October 12	3:00pm
Conference 5 – Menominee Valley CT at Northland Village	October 23	5:00pm
Conference 6 – Delta ET at Calvary, Rapid River	October 12	4:00pm
Conference 7 – Three Lakes ET at St. James, Rudyard	October 5	4:00pm
Conference 8 – Superior Central ET at Immanuel, Negaunee	October 19	3:00pm

Festival of Congregational Renewal

**Coming October 10 – 11, 2014
at Messiah, Marquette**

**Only \$10 a person or \$50 per congregation.
Bring a team of folks and attend as many workshops as possible.**

Confirmed Workshops to be offered:

- ~**Release Time:** Pastor Kevin Kaiser and Pastor Mike Laakko
Students are “released” from school for a time of Christian Education, snacks, music, and more.
Come hear how these youth programs are working in Republic and Crystal Falls.
- ~**Mid-Week Sunday School:** Featuring Mary Hansen (Kid’s Club from Ironwood) and Rev. Bonny Kinnunen (CREW from Iron River.)
Different than Release Time, some churches have chosen to move their Sunday school to a mid-week time.
Come learn what this change means for programming possibilities and community outreach.
- ~**CORE:** with Rev. Chris Johnson and Rev. Dave Johnson
This organization seeks to be a positive reforming influence in the ELCA.
Come hear about their efforts.
- ~**World Hunger:** with the Synod Hunger Committee
For Congregational Hunger Representatives and all those interested in beginning or building their church’s World Hunger involvement.
- ~**Prison Ministries:** with Pastor Jim Duehring and Dave Blomquist.
Come learn what the possibilities are for ministry in our prisons.
- ~**Banner Making:** with Rev. Chrys Levesque - Hendrick
Learn one process for the visioning and creating of banners that enrich your worship space.
- ~**Bible Study:** with Pastor Allan Johnson
We will soon begin the Year of Mark. Come get an overview of this unique and fascinating gospel.
- ~**Without Vision the People Perish:** with Lutheran Campus Minister Lisa Johnson.
What vision does your congregation have for its purpose? Its mission?
How is such a thing discerned and clarified?
Come learn about tools and steps you can take to discover your congregation’s mission.
- ~**Constitutional Review:** with Rev. Doug Johnson

How out of date is your Constitution? What is the process for amending it? Where is a church to begin?

Come have all your constitution questions answered, and learn why this document is so important.

~**The Great Commission Agenda for Councils** with Rev. Matt Lamb

The Church Council has an important role for leadership in the church, and congregational renewal is a part of that.

Come hear one method for equipping and training councils to effectively lead their congregations with purpose.

~**Advocacy:** with Rev. Cindy Crane of Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

Public policy can have a profound impact on people struggling with poverty and housing insecurity.

Learn what it means to be an advocate and what are the hunger issues facing people in the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin,

~**Poverty Simulation:** with Rev. Mary Beth Kovanen and the Hunger Committee

What does chronic poverty and hunger feel like? How would you cope with powerlessness?

What if you had been born in a system that works against your efforts to improve?

Come get a small taste of what so many people experience every day.

~**Reconciled in Christ:** What does it mean to be a "Reconciled in Christ"

congregation? What is the process?

Hear from two congregations in our synod which are offering intentional and public welcome to people who consider themselves LGTB.

~**Rise Up Detroit:** Explore the possibilities, Learn about the event, Partner with other churches.

~**Leading Worship BECAUSE It Matters:** Come hear from our own Rev. Melinda

Quivik who has so much to offer and teach when it comes to

the importance of meaningful liturgy, the involvement of the laity in worship leadership and planning,

and practical steps to enrich worship and reach for excellence in the worship experience.

~**Screen Time:** With Rev. Keith Kolstad and Rev. Jim Duehring. Come hear from

congregations in our synod

which are using screens to enrich worship and not distract from it. Find out how screens can be tastefully

added to the worship space and provide yet another dimension to the worship

service.

~**Social Media:** With Rev. Erik Heskin. Does our church really need to be online? (YES!)

What is the best way to do this? Webpage? Facebook “Group”? Facebook “Page”? What about photos? Privacy concerns? What are the best practices? Come hear all about it.

~**Newsletters and Bulletins:** with Rev. Katherine Finegan. What makes for a user-friendly bulletin?

How do we look at things from a visitor’s perspective? What makes for a readable and engaging newsletter?

Come learn some tips and share your own best practices.

~**Matthew 28 in Action:** with LLM Linda Forray, Rev. Marcia Solberg, and Ray Miller.

We know we’re supposed to be “making disciples,” but what exactly does that look like? What can people do, as a congregation and individuals, to put the Great Commission into action?

What is missional ministry and how can it renew the congregation?

~**Choir Mechanics – Singing and Directing:** with Dave Dagenais. Come learn some tips for how to get the most out of

your voice, fine tune directing skills, share music resources, and learn an anthem for our closing worship.

Start recruiting your congregational team now! To register, go to www.nglsynod.org, scroll down to Worship, Witness, Welcome: Festival of Congregational Renewal, and click on the link. You will be asked to choose four workshops so we have some idea of what workshops need more space. Final workshop registration will be at the Festival.

Friday October 10

ation	6:30pm	Registr
Opening Worship	7:00pm	Festival
me	8:00pm	Welco
on	8:30pm	Recepti

Saturday October 11, 2014

& Registration	8:30am	Coffee
ops	9:00am	Worksh
hops	12 noon	Lunch
	1:00pm	Works
prayer	3:00pm	Closing

Register by October 3rd

at www.nglsynod.org and be prepared to use paypal **or** download the registration form and send it along with a check to the Synod Office.

Hotel accommodations on your own.

If you are a World Hunger congregational representative, please fill out and return the registration form which you received in the mail to the Synod Office.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or a display table, please call the Synod Office.

Mark your calendars for 2015 MARKED!

4:00 – 7:00pm local time.

Sunday March

1: Prince of Peace,
Harvey

Sunday March

8: Christ Parish,
Ironwood

Sunday March 15: Northland Village, Marinette

MARKED! is a Synod sponsored event for all NGLS Confirmation Students. Every congregation is asked to attend a MARKED! event at least once every two years, every year if distance allows. Pastors and leaders bring their Confirmation youth for an afternoon of service, learning, music, and fun. Supper is included in this FREE event.

Like last year, every NGLS congregation will be asked to participate by collecting items. This year it will be all about BABIES! Baby kits for LWR and Baby Bundles for shelters and food shelves will be assembled. Your congregation will receive a letter by the end of this month

detailing how many of each item we need from your church. Any questions, please call the Synod Office.

Rise Up Together: Detroit 2015

Plans are well underway for the Youth
Gathering in Detroit
July 15-19, 2015.

Your church should have received a poster and a DVD. Please use these materials to generate enthusiasm and commitment among your leaders and young people.

Some dates to remember:

TODAY: Registration soft opening. Leaders

may enter data.

October 15: Website goes live. Primary leaders can submit registrations.

January 15, 2015: Registration fee increases \$50, from \$325 to \$375.

Places to find more information:

www.gatheringleaks.com

www.elca.org/gathering

Facebook page ELCA Youth Gathering

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=285650866539>.

If your church is interested in riding a Synod Bus to the Gathering (leave on Tuesday July 14, return Sunday July 19, 2015) please call the Synod Office at 906-228-2300 or email Rev. Katherine Finegan at kfinegan@nglsynod.org. She is the NGLS Gathering Synod Coordinator and Synod Day Director. If she doesn't know the answer to your question, she'll direct you to someone who will. The cost of the bus will be

split between those who ride it. The Synod will provide T-shirts for all NGLS participants for our Synod Day. It's all very exciting!!! Don't miss this incredible opportunity for a faith-deepening, group building, justice proclaiming, fellowship gushing and love overflowing event!

Start saving for your congregation's trip to the 2015 Youth Gathering

Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit? Consider registration fees, transportation, lodging and meals.

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special **Demand Investment Youth Ministry account**. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars—and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. Your congregation can open an MIF Demand Investment Youth Ministry account for as little as \$100, and your funds will be available to you when you need them.

The Mission Investment Fund will also host an onsite Service Center at the Gathering, July 15-19, 2015. Authorized account holders will be able to conveniently cash checks on their MIF Demand accounts at this Service Center at the youth event.

July 2015 is closer than you think. Visit <http://www.mif.elca.org/youthministry> for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account

application. For information on MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877-886-3522 or your MIF Regional Manager LuAnn Ferguson, at (651-900-3575), luann.ferguson@elca.org.

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Mark your calendars for Youth Ministry Events at Fortune Lake!

October 17-

19

Junior High

Retreat

October 31 - November

2

Senior High Gathering

Go to www.fortunelake.org for more info
and registration.

The easiest Youth Ministry event you'll
never have to plan.

Just come!....and bring your youth!!!

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly
“Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

Rostered Leaders in first Three Years of Call: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2014 FCTE (First Call Theological Education) Fall Event will be held November 9-12 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon Wisconsin. Please reserve these dates now, and watch for detailed information to arrive during the early part of September. First Call Theological Education cares about your transition to rostered leadership. The ELCA is committed to providing a three-year

structured program of theological education and involvement in colleague groups, all designed to assist you as newly rostered leaders in the transition to public (rostered) ministry. As a whole church we want to surround you with resources, while still giving you the freedom to determine your unique situation.

This year part of the time spent together will be adding your personal input to be used by the ELCA's Theological Education Advisory Council. This council plans to address in a holistic way issues on theological education, leadership development, candidacy, call, and rostered leaders.

Please note: if you would like to assist with any of our worship opportunities, please contact Linda Rozumalski at 715-472-4895 or rozumalskili@gmail.com

See you in November!

Sheri Jackson, First Call Planning Committee

**Go to “The Northern Great Lakes
Synod” page
and “like” us. 😊**

TRANSITIONS

+**Pastor Joe Iverson** and the people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chassell, Michigan as Pastor Iverson is installed on September 21.

+The people of **Emmanuel in Menominee, First in Gladstone** and **Shepherd of the Lakes in Sayner** as all three congregations interview candidates for ministry in these September days.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

*Those persecuted for their religious faith. We especially pray for those who struggle to lift high the cross of Jesus in Iraq. Bring peace O God!

*We lift up the Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Syria, and all places of violence and warfare. Bless the peacemakers!

*All those suffering from the Ebola virus and all those struggling to tend to the needs of the sick. We pray for effective treatment and a stem to the spread of the illness.

*For our nation as we elect leaders this November. For those who seek to serve in state, federal and local governments.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop